

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 8, and 10-15 remain in the application with claims 1, 3-5, 8, 10, 11, 13, and 15 having been amended hereby and claims 2, 7, and 9 having been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 13, and 15 under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Nishimoto in view of Roylance.

As previously explained, the present invention is intended to find a way to get a standard QWERTY keyboard on a small handheld device. This keyboard is preferable to utilizing a standard ten-key approach, such as typically employed in a telephone keypad. The present invention solves this problem by folding each line of the QWERTY keyboard essentially in half and arranging the second half of each line underneath the first half, but staggered so that it is more tactilely responsive to the user. In other words, if the three line QWERTY keyboard were simply cut in half and then realigned underneath the respective preceding half, it would become too difficult for the user to know where the various keys are located. Thus, each of the three lines of the QWERTY keypad are assigned as a leading portion and a following portion, with the following portion being located respectively under its leading portion, but misaligned by at least one key width spacing so that the user can immediately know where the first key of the following portion is relative to the first key of the leading portion.

The claims have been amended hereby to emphasize this

feature of the present invention in which each of the three rows of the QWERTY keyboard are divided into a leading portion and following portion with the following portion being located under its respective leading portion but misaligned by a predetermined distance.

Nishimoto relates to a portable device in which the standard telephone keypad is provided that typically employs twelve keys arranged in four rows and three columns, as is well known.

Clearly, Nishimoto fails to suggest the feature of the present invention involving utilizing the QWERTY, three line keyboard and dividing each of the three lines into a leading portion and a following portion.

Roylance is cited for its disclosure of rows of a QWERTY keyboard, as shown in Fig. 3 of Roylance, in which according to the examiner left-hand portions and right-hand portions are shifted relative to each other.

Of course, what is shown in Fig. 3 of Roylance is simply the standard QWERTY keyboard, in which each successive row from the top to the bottom has fewer keys thereby resulting in an apparent staggered arrangement.

It can be clearly seen in Roylance that a so-called second group representing the right-hand keys is not arranged below the so-called first group representing the left hand keys. In other words, the following group of keys YUIOP is not arranged below the leading group of keys QWERTY.

Therefore, even combining Roylance with Nishimoto all

that would result would be the portable device of Nishimoto with the three rows of a QWERTY keyboard. A device taught to be avoided by the present invention and, in fact, is avoided by providing the following portion being arranged beneath the leading portion of each of the three rows of QWERTY keys.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 3, 4, 10, and 11 under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Nishimoto in view of Roylance and further in view of Whitcroft.

Whitcroft is cited for its showing of color coding a data entry device in which different colors are assigned to different diagonals making up the keys of the keyboard.

Nevertheless, it is respectfully submitted that Whitcroft does not cure the deficiencies of Nishimoto and Roylance concerning arranging the following portion of each line of keys to be beneath the leading portion of the keys and being offset by a predetermined amount, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 5, 7, 12, and 14 under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Nishimoto and Roylance in view of Kono.

Kono is cited for the use of a touch panel screen that permits the user to enter and display information on the screen. Nevertheless, Kono is silent concerning the arrangement of the keys on the front of the housing, whether the keys are actually mechanical keys or touch-sensitive keys, as in the presently claimed invention.

Therefore, Kono fails to supply the missing teaching of the primary and secondary references.

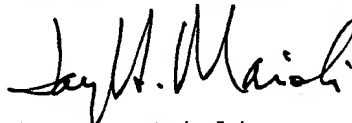
Accordingly, in view of the amendments made to the claims hereby, as well as the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that a mobile device having a specially constructed keyboard in which the keys are divided and arranged in an overlapping fashion and mutually offset, as shown in Fig. 3, for example, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims, is neither shown nor suggested in the cited references, alone or in combination.

Entry of this amendment is earnestly solicited and it is respectfully submitted that the amendment raises no new issues requiring further consideration and/or search because no new structure has been added. It simply has been defined in a different fashion and is intended to make distinctions between this invention and the cited references more clear.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jay" and last name "Maioli" clearly legible.

Jay H. Maioli
Reg. No. 27, 213

JHM:gr